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CAMLET

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA AIR POUCH

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4 May 1949

TO : Chief, Foreign Branch "M"
FROM : Chief of Station, Karlsruhe
SUBJECT: CAMISE -- Progress

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2D
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Synopsis: This memorandum in broad outline reviews the significant features of the operation. It describes in detail CAMISE's function in sustaining operation CAMLET, the work she is slated to do for EDUCATOR and our plans of exploiting her in her overt capacity as co-editor of CAMLET's projected enterprise in the Western Zone. Security aspects of the operation are briefly touched upon. This memorandum does not contain any requests for action.

1. We regret our failure to keep you currently posted on this project. We also admit the validity of your observations on mimeographed progress reports and appreciate the feeling of intellectual frustration they kindle in the desk officer's soul. We shall complete form 51-67 as soon as CAMISE returns to Berlin. At this writing she is vacationing in the British Zone. Upon her return in the middle of May she will stop over at C J to discuss future operational possibilities in the zone as provided by the Western German edition of CAMLET's paper in Frankfurt a/M.

2. Historical Review. This is nearly the 5th anniversary of C J's acquaintance with CAMISE. C J, then the Chief Interrogator with 3rd U.S. Army Interrogation Center, Freising, learned of her existence through the versatile SS Obersturmbannführer Dr. Wilhelm Hüttel, one of Kaltenbrunner's Austrian cronies in the South-East Division of AMT VII RSHA, and the key figure in the W/T D/A Operation Mount. Hüttel mentioned her inter obiter as the translator of Ciano's diaries and was rather taken aback when C J insisted on meeting her. Eventually Dr. Hüttel, professing to have lost her address, told C J that the only record of CAMISE's whereabouts was on the address tag of an empty apple box in the loft of his residence in Bad Aussee, Austria. C J proceeded to Bad Aussee and located the apple box and the address. He prevailed on Capt. Eric Tinn, Chief of the OSS Detachment in Munich, to send one of his assistants, Lt. Freund, to Weimar, Thuringia. There Lt. Freund interrogated CAMISE in the presence of Mr. L. de Neufville prior to transferring her, with her documents, to Frankfurt a/M.

3. CAMISE's Overt Position (Cover). CAMISE is co-editor of the Western German edition of CAMLET's newspaper. CAMLET contemplates having this edition edited and printed in the zone in the very near future. This would involve CAMISE's moving to the zone, at least on a parttime basis. The contemplated arrangement is that CAMISE will spend six weeks in the zone (Frankfurt a/M) and six weeks in Berlin, alternately. This will afford both Gaines and Pace an opportunity to utilize her services.

4. Interrelation CAMISE and CAMLET operation. As you know, CAMISE has rendered invaluable services in cementing our relations with CAMLET to a point where we can safely state that he is a very valuable contact both in obtaining spot intelligence and in accomplishing a long range penetration of the SPD. A sizeable volume of largely documentary material, which CAMLET has made available to us, covering economic targets, was, for the most part, selected by CAMISE and turned over to a BOB representative, formerly C J, and, since his departure, E J. CAMISE's presence at all our meetings with CAMLET has helped us to obtain concrete results from requests made to him. CAMLET is a badly over-

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worked man and our requests are liable to become neglected unless somebody keeps needling him. CAMISE keeps us conscientiously posted on views CAMLET expresses in regard to his relation with us. It is a tribute to her skill and a testimony to her loyalty that, in so doing, she has managed to avoid endangering this relationship. In this connection it should be stated that CAMLET's confidence in our discretion and in our sense of fairness, assiduously fostered by [] and [] through the years, has not resulted in complete candour on his part. There is still a residue of natural reserve on his part in discussing top level developments in the councils of Dr. Kurt Schumacher. CAMLET is also loath to relinquish his hold on sources of information for our benefit. Through CAMISE we are able to exert pressure on him to be more communicative along certain lines of reserve. The mechanics of this arrangement involve CAMISE's informing us regarding data in CAMLET's possession, which he does not care to divulge. At our next meeting with him we then turn the conversation in that general direction and register a complaint over our ignorance in the specific field to which his information pertains. In ninety cases out of one hundred, this will tickle CAMLET's vanity to the point where he is unable to hold back his information any longer. Or, if he still persists, CAMISE will commit a studied indiscretion of the "but you told me only yesterday" variety, which gives CAMLET no choice in the matter.

5. CAMISE Supporting EDUCATOR Project. We should not fail to mention that CAMISE will also be of assistance to [] of EDUCATOR. Among her projected functions are the translation of []'s contents analyses of the East Zone edition of CAMLET's newspaper and, if need be, the drafting of a rebuttal. Since we are agreed not to place [] in direct touch with CAMLET, this can be considered a necessary and satisfactory arrangement all round.

6. CAMISE's Loyalty. CAMISE's loyalty to us as an American intelligence organization has never been doubted. She is pro-American in her outlook, feels strongly that Germany's future involves a close community of interests between the United States and Germany, and is uncompromisingly hostile in her sentiments toward the Soviets. Most of these sentiments she shares with CAMLET, except that the latter is avowedly opportunistic in cultivating a close relationship with the American side through us. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, we believe that CAMISE considers herself under a primary obligation of loyalty toward us, excluding all others with the possible exception of her duties as a German. Any conspiracy against our interests involving CAMLET (a contingency we incline to consider as highly improbable) would, if it came to her attention, be immediately communicated to us.

7. Security of Operation. Security risks are inherent in CAMISE's past and the fact that she has to conceal her true identity. The moderate punishment meted out to the former chief of AMT VI, RSHA, SS Gruppenführer Walter Schellenberg, has perturbed her. Schellenberg, she feels, will capitalize on the fact that he "has the goods" on so many public fugitives who escaped the post war purge. Her chances of being uncovered are of course much greater in the zone where many of her erstwhile colleagues now live in perfect freedom, than in Berlin which is still given a wide berth by persons with an activist Nazi record. Her husband, a former General Staff officer who now studies at a German university in the zone, of course knows about her double identity. She is anxious to divorce him, but divorce proceedings would likely bring out her true identity. Whether the British have ever succeeded in penetrating her cover, we are inclined to doubt. No doubt all personnel of CAMLET's newspaper have been subjected to the closest British scrutiny, and it would be interesting to know what findings they arrive at in her case. For completeness' sake, mention must be made of the fact that in the very initial phase of this operation,

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when CAMISE was still in the employ of QMGUS and the key figure in project "Sitting Duck" designed to draw Soviet attentions upon her, we had to lift the veil off her past as an incentive to Soviet overtures. In studying the FORD (later CAMISADE) case you will find that he too was involved in the "Sitting Duck" operation. He purportedly had been instructed by his Soviet case officer, Major Skurin, to play CAMISE into his hands. We brought FORD and CAMISE together, but the operation came to naught due to causes on which it would be superfluous to dwell here. We fail to recollect whether FORD was in fact told that CAMISE was identical with Captain Skurin's target, or whether she was presented to him as a ringer. In summing up it can be stated that CAMISE's new identity fits her to perfection, so much so that the case officer in dealing with her is most of the time oblivious of the fact that CAMISE and the girl he interrogated in 1945 are one and the same.

F. Extent of her Knowledge of our Organization. CAMISE is probably better acquainted with the history of our organization and its personnel than any other agent this base has ever run. This in part is due to an unfortunate occurrence that took place, I believe, in 1945. At that time CAMISE requested that her private papers be returned to her. Instead, however, of merely receiving those papers she was given the complete operational file on "Operation Mount" which she studied with bated attention and then returned. After she had been turned over to BOB for further handling, CAMISE's case officer became deeply infatuated with her and we assume that the drop in security consciousness which is the customary by-product of infatuation, helped to increase her knowledge of our organization. As of this date, she knows the following members of our operations base:

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1. She is aware of the fact that we are a high level intelligence organization interested in information from the Soviet orbit. She has been given extensive briefing on our information objectives in order to enable her to make judicious selections from the information reaching CAMLET through his own channels. To the best of our knowledge she has kept her intelligence affiliations a well guarded secret, although both CAMLET and Dr. Josef Grunner cannot help but surmise that she works for us.

9. Method of Contact. CAMISE is contacted by her case officer on an average of twice a week, either at her or her case officer's private residence.

1G. Operational Planning. It would be premature at this time to make any specific recommendations as to the future handling of this agent operation. CAMISE, no doubt, is professional agent caliber and once political conditions in Germany have sufficiently crystallized we may consider granting her sufficient operational latitude to organize her own information net. For the time being the information objectives are identical with those underlying the operation of CAMLET and her target is, generally speaking, the information collecting apparatus of CAMLET's newspaper.

Acting Chief, BOB